

Pre-visit, On-site and Post-visit Educational Activities Fort Sumter National Monument

Pre –visit activities

- Have students use the internet and the library to research major events leading to the beginning of the Civil War.
- Have the students use the internet and the library to research South Carolina's role in the shaping of the nation's march toward Civil War.

Goal of the Lesson

- To have students define the causes of the Civil War, and to highlight the role Fort Sumter and South Carolina played in the start of the war.

On-site activities

- Have students explore the exhibits at Liberty Square and identify reasons for the start of the Civil War at Fort Sumter.
- Have students make a list of the various types of cannons on display at Fort Sumter.
- Interview one of the National Park Service Rangers about life at Fort Sumter during the Civil War.

Post-visit activity

- Have students pick one of the military leaders who fought at Fort Sumter and describe why they supported the North or the South during the Civil War.
- Have Student describe the life of a slave at Fort Sumter during the bombardment of 1863-1865.
- Have students describe in their own words how the Civil War has personally affected them today.
- Have students describe in their own words the difficulties of building Fort Sumter.
- Have students write three quotes from famous Americans and, in their own words, explain their position on slavery as a cause of the Civil War.
- Have the students describe the battle for Fort Sumter in April 1861 as illustrated by museum exhibits and wayside signs at Fort Sumter.
- Have students pretend to be a newspaper or television reporter and describe how they would report the historic events of April 1861.